

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 009024
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TAGS: SHUM, TW, US

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST ADVERTISEMENT CONDEMNS POLITICAL
OPPRESSION IN TAIWAN

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF FULL-PAGE AD ENTITLED "STRONGLY
CONDEMN POLITICAL OPPRESSION IN TAIWAN," WHICH WAS PLACED
IN JANUARY 12 WASHINGTON POST BY THE COMMITTEE TO STOP
EXECUTION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN TAIWAN, C/O 1212 EAST
59 STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637.

BEGIN TEXT: A NEW WAVE OF POLITICAL OPPRESSION IS EN-
GULFING TAIWAN -- NUMEROUS ARRESTS, BOTH OPEN AND SECRET,
HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE KUOMINTANG RULING PARTY (KMT) TO
STIFLE THE RISING DEMAND FOR FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY IN
TAIWAN.

MASSIVE ARRESTS FOLLOWING LOCAL ELECTIONS: TWO YOUTHS WERE
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PAGE 02 STATE 009024

FATALLY SHOT WITH POLICE REVOLVERS AND 200 ARE BELIEVED
ARRESTED AFTER OVER 10,000 VOTERS IN CHUNGLI DEMONSTRATED
AGAINST ALLEGED KMT VOTE TAMPERING DURING THE LOCAL ELEC-
TIONS IN MID-NOVEMBER. THE DEMONSTRATION IS A MANIFESTA-
TION OF THE PEOPLE'S PENT-UP RESENTMENT AGAINST A PERSIST-
ENT PATTERN OF ELECTION MANIPULATION AND POLITICAL
OPPRESSION BY THE KMT.

CONSISTENT WITH THE KMT'S TRADITIONAL STRATEGY OF BRAND-ING ALL WHO DEMAND FAIR AND OPEN ELECTIONS AS "CRIMINALS," THOSE ARRESTED NOW ARE ACCUSED OF "ARSON" AND "DISTURBING THE PEACE."

SECRET ARRESTS: BEFORE THE ELECTIONS, THE KMT SECRETLY ARRESTED SEVERAL CAMPAIGN AIDES FOR TSAI HUNG CHIAO-ER, A NON-KMT CANDIDATE FOR THE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY AND A SPOKESPERSON FOR THE COMMON PEOPLE. AMONG THOSE ARRESTED WERE TSAI YU-RONG, 22, A FOURTH-YEAR STUDENT IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING AT TAM KANG COLLEGE, AND SUNG TUNG-WEN, 22, A RECENT GRADUATE OF THE SAME SCHOOL.

THE TWO ALSO TRIED TO ORGANIZE A FORUM ON "CAPITAL FLIGHT AND DUAL NATIONALITY" AT THE COLLEGE BUT WAS BARRED BY THE KMT. AT LEAST THREE OTHER STUDENTS INVOLVED WERE ALSO SECRETLY ARRESTED, AND EVEN MORE ARRESTS ARE FEARED.

MORE OPPRESSION: IN EARLY NOVEMBER, THE KMT ACCUSED THREE YOUNG MEN, TAI HUA-KUANG, LAI MING-LIEH AND LIU KUO-CHI, ALL TAIWAN BORN AND BRED, OF BEING "COMMUNIST SPIES." THEY WERE ALLEGEDLY MEMBERS OF A "PEOPLE'S LIBERATION FRONT" WHICH SENT "THREATENING" LETTERS TO MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS OPERATING IN TAIWAN.

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PAGE 03 STATE 009024

IN AUGUST, THE KMT LAUNCHED AN ATTACK ON "LOCALIST LITERATURE," I.E., LITERARY WORKS REFLECTING PRESENT-DAY SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN TAIWAN, AND ACCUSED SUCH WORKS OF BEING A COVER FOR "ILLEGAL" AND "SUBVERSIVE" ACTIVITIES.

THE RECENT ARRESTS CAME AFTER A MONTHS'-LONG CAMPAIGN URGING PUBLIC VIGILANCE AGAINST "COMMUNIST SPIES," A RED-HERRING TO DISTRACT ATTENTION IN TAIWAN AND ABROAD FROM REPRESSION BY THE KMT.

IN SHORT, THE KMT IS USING ALL MEANS TO PREVENT A DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT FROM DEVELOPING IN TAIWAN. ANY CRITICISM OF PRESENT CONDITIONS WILL BE LABELLED "SUBVERSIVE" OR "COMMUNIST-INSPIRED."

ARRESTS CONTINUING: MORE ARRESTS ARE EXPECTED AS CRITICISM OF THE KMT DEVELOPS IN TAIWAN. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH THE OPPRESSIVE NATURE OF THE KMT.

ONE YEAR AGO, AT LEAST EIGHTEEN PERSONS WERE SECRETLY ARRESTED FOR BEING ALLEGED "SPIES." OF THOSE, CHEN MING-CHUNG WAS SAVED FROM SECRET EXECUTION THROUGH AN INTER-

NATIONAL RESCUE CAMPAIGN IN WHICH THIS COMMITTEE

PARTICIPATED. ALL EIGHTEEN HAVE BEEN TORTURED AND ARE NOW LANGUISHING IN JAIL. SO ARE WANG HSING-NAN (FOR ALLEGED "TERRORISM"), YEN MING-SHENG AND YANG CHING-HAI (FOR ALLEGED "TREASON" AND "SEDITION"), AND MANY OTHERS WHOSE NAMES AND FATES HAVE NOT YET BEEN UNCOVERED.

THEY ARE BUT THE MOST RECENT VICTIMS OF THE NOTORIOUS EMERGENCY DECREE (MARTIAL LAW) PROCLAIMED IN 1947.

THUS, DESPITE CHIANG CHING-KUO'S PROFESSED ADHERENCE TO "HUMAN RIGHTS" AND "OPEN ELECTIONS," THE CONTRARY IS THE TRUE STATE OF AFFAIRS IN TAIWAN. COSMETICS CANNOT CON-

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PAGE 04 STATE 009024

CEAL THE NATURE OF ONE OF THE MOST REPRESSIVE REGIMES IN THE WORLD.

THE "COMMITTEE TO STOP SECRET EXECUTION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN TAIWAN" WAS ORGANIZED IN 1976 TO HELP SECURE THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. OUR TASK IS CONTINUING AND IS AGAIN MOST URGENT. WE AGAIN APPEAL FOR HELP FROM ALL PERSONS CONCERNED WITH THE PRESERVATION OF POLITICAL FREEDOM TO CONDEMN POLITICAL OPPRESSION IN TAIWAN. PAST EXPERIENCE HAS PROVEN THAT MASSIVE PRESSURE FROM ABROAD CAN HELP TO SAVE POLITICAL PRISONERS IN TAIWAN. END TEXT.

2. AMONG "SPONSORS" OF AD WERE SUCH WELL-KNOWN SCHOLARS, SCIENTISTS AND PUBLIC FIGURES AS: PROF. MAX DELBRUCK (CALTECH, NOBEL LAUREATE); PROF. MARK MANCALL (STANFORD U.); PROF. ERWIN A SALK (COLUMBIA COLLEGE OF CHICAGO); PROF. BERT F. HOSELITZ (U. OF CHICAGO); PHILIP BERRIGAN; PROF. ROSS TERRILL (HARVARD U.); PROF. GEORGE WALD (HARVARD U., NOBEL LAUREATE); PROF. NOAM CHOMSKY (M.I.T.); PROF. HARRIET MILLS (U. MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR).

3. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY HAS IN ITS FILES CONCERNING ALLEGED ARRESTEES TSAI YU-RONG AND SUNG TUNG-WEN.

4. ANY OTHER COMMENTS EMBASSY WOULD CARE TO MAKE ON THE AD WOULD ALSO BE APPRECIATED.

5. PRESS GUIDELINES ON ABOVE AD FOLLOW SEPTTEL. CHRISTOPHER

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